United Nations

Press Release

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Lebanese Ambassador to United Nations calls for prompt implementation of 1978 Security Council resolution which calls for withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

- The World Food Programme announces that it will provide emergency food aid worth more than $43 million for persons affected by drought in Ethiopia.

- The Security Council accepts Secretary-General's proposal on appointment of Major-General Lawrence A. Uwumarogie of Nigeria as Chief Military Observer of United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

- Speakers at Economic and Social Council meeting in Geneva discuss ways to reactivate growth in developing world.

- The United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and Law of Sea announces meeting of technical experts on issue of high seas fisheries on Monday, 22 July at Headquarters.

- The International Committee of Red Cross appeals to parties in Yugoslavia to respect red cross emblem.

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The Lebanese Ambassador to the United Nations has called for the prompt implementation of 1978 Security Council resolution 425 calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Ambassador Khalil Makkawi of Lebanon said it was time to take action to end Israel's occupation, which had been allowed to continue for 13 years, in "blatant violation" of United Nations decisions.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The letter said that, at a time when Lebanon was ushering in a new dawn of peace for most of the nation, and the United Nations was witnessing growing strength as part of the new world order, it was no longer acceptable that the blatant Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon be allowed to stand.

The letter called for the renewal of mandate of UNIFIL -- the United Nations Interim Force in southern Lebanon, for another six months -- saying their presence would provide much needed assistance and support for the civilian population faced with the "violent and arbitrary nature of Israeli occupation". The current mandate of UNIFIL expires on 31 July.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it will provide emergency food aid worth more than $43 million for persons affected by drought in Ethiopia.

Emergency food aid totalling nearly $9.5 million will also be sent to Madagascar, Djibouti, the Central African Republic and the Philippines.

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The Security Council has accepted a proposal by Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar concerning the appointment of Major-General Lawrence A. Uwumarogie of Nigeria as the Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II).

Major-General Uwumarogie replaces Brigadier-General Pericles Serreira Gomes of Brazil, who lays down his command in early August.

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The alleviation of the debt burden, the strengthening of the multilateral trading system and increased development assistance are necessary to reactivate growth in the developing world.

That was the view of many speakers addressing the Economic and Social Council, currently meeting in Geneva, as it discussed the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on International Economic Cooperation -- which states that "economic policies should have as their ultimate objective the betterment of the human condition".

Speaking on behalf of the European Economic Community (EEC), the representative of the Netherlands, Peter Post, said the Community supported the need to pursue anti-inflationary policies and to increase global savings and reduce deficits.

He said the European single market would improve growth and trade prospects for the world as a whole and that the Community attached great importance to the timely completion of the Uruguay Round as a step to strengthen the multilateral trading system. He also pledged support to Eastern European countries in this difficult period of economic transition.

Speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries, the representative of Ghana, Obeng Kufour, said current policies had stultified development and engendered poverty in developing countries. Developing countries needed an open and liberalized trade system and the United Nations development system had an important role to play.

The representative of the Soviet Union, Eugeny Makeyev, said his country aimed to achieve full integration into the world economy through the creation of conditions for free enterprise and overcoming State monopolism as well as transformation of the production structure.

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A five-day meeting of technical experts on the issue of high seas fisheries will be convened at Headquarters on Monday, 22 July, by the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

At the forthcoming meeting, the experts will discuss ways of promoting more effective implementation of the high seas fisheries regime, with particular attention to the development of possible guidelines to assist States in improving the level of cooperation in the conservation and management of high seas fisheries.

The meeting is the third in a series being held by the United Nations to promote the uniform and consistent application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Previous meetings dealt with issues of baselines -- the lines from which jurisdictional limits are measured -- and the regime for marine scientific research.

The Law of the Sea Convention, adopted in 1982, has received 159 signatures and has already been ratified by 47 States and entities.

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The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has reported that, from the beginning of the recent events in Yugoslavia, it has heard repeated allegations of misuse of the red cross emblem.

In a press release issued at United Nations Headquarters today, ICRC said that it has sent an appeal on 16 July to all the parties involved, calling on them to comply with the basic rules of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC said it has reminded the parties that use of the red cross emblem was strictly limited to medical and protection activities and that any misuse of the emblem was a serious violation of humanitarian law that jeopardized the safety of Red Cross personnel and deprived the victims of the assistance to which they were entitled.

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